

The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1911.

WANTED—A CITY LIBRARY.

Charles Evans, one of the foremost librarians and bibliographers in the nation, has lately been in Richmond doing research work in the Virginia State Library. For forty-five years he has been engaged in library work, and what he says, therefore, carries with it the weight of unquestionable authority. In a letter elsewhere to be found, he bestows high and merited praise upon the present condition of the Virginia State Library and upon its efficient director and librarian, Dr. H. R. Melville. In all that Mr. Evans says we heartily agree, especially in his plea that the Virginia State Library should have liberal support. Further, Mr. Evans is absolutely right when he says:

"The city has no public library, and the State Library has been performing the functions which usually devolve upon such institutions in other cities. In doing this, it saves the city the large annual tax for library purposes which other cities are bearing. I am not saying that it should do this; but it has been, and is, doing it. There is a growing danger that its main purpose, as a city library, will be overlooked and its means absorbed in the purchase of what is ephemeral merely in literature to supply this demand. . . . It is not fair to it, management that it should perform this additional service, for means for which it is expected to perform a different service. . . . The State Library needs to be strengthened in its manuscript historical material."

In other words, the main function of the Virginia State Library must not be lost sight of—and that is that it is a library for reference and research, not designed as a general public library. The statute establishing the Virginia State Library declares that "it shall be maintained and conducted as a library of reference." It never was intended to serve as a substitute for a city library, and the time has come when it ought to be relieved of its abnormal function. Were there a city library, the Virginia State Library could be strictly for reference and research, and not for popular reading or use. As Mr. Evans says, the State Library is a highly valuable asset of the city, on account of its resources for research, and it ought to be developed along this line, receiving the most liberal aid.

We need a city library. Why haven't we had one?

The only reason which we can find for the failure of the establishment of a city library is that whenever one has been contemplated there has been a widespread popular idea that it would cost the city too much, because, in the popular estimate, it would have to be an awe-inspiring marble palace, a gilded library mausoleum rather than an adequate building. This idea is wholly wrong. There is no need for a palatial structure, with costly mural decorations and lofty spires.

A simple, adequate, capacious, fire-proof building is all that is needed. The more homelike its interior, the better. The city is now building three public schools, two of which will cost \$80,000 each. The city can easily afford to erect a city library at a cost no greater than that of one of these schools. In fact, a smaller sum could be expended on the building. A large outlay would have to be made at first on books, but after this nucleus had been secured the yearly expenditure for books and periodicals could be made a fixed sum of a few thousand dollars. The salaries of an efficient librarian and a few assistants would not amount to very much in comparison with other departments of municipal activity.

With such a plan in mind, we feel sure that the City Council would, upon sufficient demonstration of public demand, erect and equip a city library. That the demand for this library exists there can be no doubt. Everybody who thinks about it will agree that Richmond, with its one hundred and forty thousand people, ought to have a city library. The extent to which the people use the Virginia State Library gives sufficient evidence of the need and desire for a city institution.

If Richmond had a municipal library, it would not suffer from lack of public appreciation. There the school children would have ample space and resources to do the reference work which they are required to do to a greater and greater extent as the years go by. A city library would supplement the work carried on by all the educational institutions of the city, especially those which endeavor to teach useful occupations. There the great mass of the people who desire information on many subjects or wish to improve themselves could get what they want. There the boys and girls who have "nowhere to go" for amusement but the parks and the streets would find profitable recreation. There the army of those who wish to read for their own education could find all the books they wish, the magazines, the newspapers, the reviews, technical and professional journals. Lovers of fiction could have all that they long for at a

city library, and the vacant hours of hundreds would be spent there. There are countless reasons why we should have a city library. The uses and results of such an institution are so beneficial that there is but one side to the case. The time has come when the Virginia State Library ought to be allowed to restrict itself to the purchase of nothing but books for reference and research.

With a budget of two and a half million dollars, we can afford a city library. There is no need of marble lions at the entrance or fancy frescoes. If the people will but ask for a city library, it will be given them. City Council will not refuse it. We ought to have had a city library ten years ago, and we can have it now if those who want it will demand it.

RICHMOND'S GLORIOUS TEAM.

Some people are never satisfied, and the kickers are now kicking about the Richmond baseball team and its splendid work on the diamond. Counting the game played on Monday, this marvelous aggregation of artists had appeared eighty-six times in the open field to contest for the championship of the Virginia League, secondarily, but primarily for the purpose of affording clean and wholesome amusement for the people. Many is the time when from the grandstand and the bleachers have been greeted with thunders of applause for their daring and intrepidity against fearful odds. What matters it that out of the eighty-six games they have lost only forty-six? and that their percentage is only .465?

There is Charleston, with one of the finest clubs in the South Atlantic League, which has played thirty-six games, and has won only twelve and stands with only .333 its credit in the percentage column. Then there are Cincinnati, which has lost 53 games out of a possible 90; Brooklyn, which has lost 56 games out of 91, and dear old Boston, where they do everything better than it is done anywhere else, which has lost only 13 games out of 90 played and accounted for at the time these statistics were assembled. These Yankee clubs, all belong to the National League, but things are not very much different in the American League, in which Washington—the Capital of the Nation, and for the support of which everybody in the country is taxed—has lost 53 games out of 91, and St. Louis, which has lost 64 games out of 91.

Then there is Danville in our own glorious Commonwealth—"the Mother of Presidents," the admiration of all people and the hope of the world—which has scored only 25 times, when it had the chance to win eighty-six victories, and which has besides a percentage of an even .412, whereas last year its percentage was .595. When you think of knocking the Richmond club, reflect, if you please, on the far sorer figure Danville cuts before the eyes of the sporting world. Danville is a proud community. Its people are generous almost to a fault; they have school houses and churches and factories and railroads and at least two excellent newspapers—the Register, well edited by a man named Taylor, and The Methodist, in which Brother E. G. Moseley pours out his soul-stirring thoughts touching the better things of this life and the life that is to come after all the frivolities of the present passing stage have been left behind. Picture it, think of it if you can, how the people in that community must feel when they read the baseball news and the truth dawns on them that they are really in the cellar! Think, further, how near we are to that comfortable abode, and shout it to the house-tops that the Richmond team is illustrating on almost every field the old-time devotion of Richmond to its neighbor somewhere down near the line a-bounding and abutting on the North Carolina territory. That's it; the Richmond team can play ball when it wants to; but perish the thought that it should every play ball to the further discouragement of the Danville dubs, and that it should ever forget that the interests of Richmond and the interests of Danville are one and inseparable. If Danville shall stay in the cellar, Richmond will be within easy call, and, if by some sudden freak of the sphere, Richmond should go down into the depths there is comfort in the reflection that Danville will not be far off.

"Why don't you roast the Richmond team?" What's the use? The weather is too hot, and they are doing the best they can. It is a pretty poor do, to be sure; but they may yet learn to play ball, and while there is life there is hope. Probably the members of the team could make more money picking cotton or grubbing for peanuts; but it is our team, and, live or die, sink or swim, survive or perish, we stick to it that everything in Richmond and about Richmond is a little better than it is anywhere else. Play ball!

"THE OLD MAN."

Many boys and young men refer to their fathers as "the old man." Sometimes the phrase is wholly respectful, wholly reverent, but more often it is disrespectful. It is frequently used by those who think that "the old man" doesn't know as much as they do; that he is an old fogy in his ideas; that he is neither progressive nor up-to-date. For the youths who have such notions, this excerpt from an article in the Graceville (Florida) Advertiser, contains thoughts worthy of consideration:

"Young man, I have just overheard you make a remark that 'the old man' was all right, but there were a lot of things that the old man didn't know. He can't roll a cigarette like you do, nor can he twist his neck into as many different shapes as you. Neither is the old man able to use the latest slang of the day, nor is he

posted on the proper shape of pipe to stick in his mouth and suck away on while making a parade. But the old man knows how to make money enough to pay your bills and keep the wolf away from the door. When the old man was your age he didn't smoke a pipe or wear a rainbow necktie every evening. He was very busy working hard on a small salary and denying himself a lot of pleasure in order to get a start. You will find out after all that the things the old man doesn't know don't cut much ice, while the things he does know will make a volume that it will take you many years to learn. When you have learned as much as the old man has forgotten, perhaps you will be able to hold down a job that commands a salary of seven or eight dollars a week."

"The old man" is not half the fool some may think him. He has been over a good part of the road, and he isn't the blockhead that he may seem to some.

FOR A CLEAN STAGE.

A long step in the right direction has been taken by the American Federated Catholic Societies in their endeavor to remove licentious plays from the stage of the nation. Vigorous protest is being made against certain plays which are now being presented to audiences in this country. Here are the plays which are considered especially objectionable:

"Miss Innocence."
 "Desperate Charles."
 "The Hypocrites."
 "Kreutzer Sonata."
 "Sappho."
 "The Blue Mouse."
 "The Soul Kiss."
 "The Girl From Rector's."
 "The Girl in the Train."
 "The Girl in the Taxi."
 "Alma, Where Do You Live?"
 "La Samaritaine."
 "The Foolish Virgin."
 "The Woman Passes."

These and similar plays are declared by the American Federated Catholic Societies to set up a standard of morality which is "open licentiousness." It is believed that attendance on such plays will accustom the spectators in thought and deed to disregard and discard all Christian modesty. It is also thought that "themes of divorce, adultery, seduction, double life, conjugal infidelity, free love and other worse performances are not what the decent people want."

Only those who attend the theatre regularly, and who are not unfamiliar with the "acts" given in cheap vaudeville and moving picture show houses understand thoroughly the marked decadence in the moral tone of stage offerings to-day. Let a "risque" play be advertised and a full house is sure to follow. This is rarely the case with other sort of plays. The best actors of the best class often are greeted by half-filled houses. In the moving picture shows, performances are even more daring than in the regular play-house and the salacious sight is common there.

The drift in theatrical offerings is distinctly not toward the good and the clean. There should be a general check before public taste becomes too vitiated.

MAKE THEM LISTEN.

It is very hard to diffuse knowledge and understanding of that which is new. The common herd is so dull-headed that the truth sinks but slowly into it. The mayor of Girard, Kansas, knows this. He is a Socialist. Some time ago thirty voters in Girard were put in jail for selling whiskey unlawfully. Kansas being a prohibition State. The Socialist mayor saw a chance to secure converts, and so every Sunday morning while these men were in jail he took a bundle of Socialist literature under his arm and went to the jail, where he talked the doctrines of Marx to the assembled prisoners, saying "For the first time in my life, I have an audience that can't get away."

Now that may seem to have been taking a mean advantage of a lot of unfortunate men to talk socialism to them, because they couldn't get away and when they were worried about the opportunity to do a little missionary work was too good to let go. Now this tale ought to have a little moral for our dear friends, the advocates of votes for the female sex. Let them seek out the prisoners and let their lights shine before the voters there. Let them invade the "tensorial parlors" and convince while the latter is thick upon the helpless man. In this way, many a convert would be added to the fold and that day hastened when shall dawn the glorious summer of woman's content.

AUTOMOBILE FIRE APPARATUS.

Early next year New York City will have one hundred and fifty pieces of automobile fire apparatus. This seems to indicate the retirement of the horse from the fire departments of large cities. That this will take place is certain, though it may be a matter of eight or ten years. It is sure that a fire department can move more quickly and with better calculation in automobile apparatus than with the very best trained horses.

One of the chief arguments for automobiles is that ladders and water towers can be lengthened when propelled by a motor force because corners can be turned more sharply. In other ways, which are obvious, the automobile is more efficient than the horse for fire purposes.

HOW LONG IS A MAN YOUNG?

Of course, all of us know that a woman is never old, but to venture the assertion that a man never is seems rash. A magazine in Spain has interviewed its readers on the vital question, "How long is a man young?" Thousands of replies came in, and some few of them were:

"A man begins to age one week after his marriage."
 "A man is old when young girls kiss his cold lips."
 "A man is old when women regard

his protestations of love simply as compliments; a man is young when his compliments are taken for declarations of love."

"When the daughter smiles on you and mama frowns, then you are young. When the frowning is done by the daughter, then you are beginning to be an old man."

"When you won't permit the women to fool you any longer, then you are getting old."

The answer which won the prize, however, was "A man is young as long as he makes women jealous of him." That is a sure test. We have seen men who will never see sixty again who could still make women jealous and young ones, at that.

NO GOLD TEETH IN FRONT.

Visible gold teeth must go. Such is the decree laid down by Dr. Burton Lee Thorpe, of St. Louis, at the convention of the National Dental Association in Cleveland. In a speech he drilled dentists who permit patients to commit the esthetic misdemeanor of wearing gold teeth in front, where a mere parting of the lips makes a display of precious metal. Dr. Thorpe said:

"This association has had a marked influence on the ethics and esthetics of our calling, so that to-day it is only the 'dental hoboe' who places gold crowns on the anterior teeth to please an uncultured patient."

Dr. Thorpe agreed that the esthetic misdemeanor of wearing a gold tooth is second only to the esthetic crime of studding a gold tooth with diamonds. He suggested a campaign of public education to stop such offenses against good taste as are expressed in front teeth of gold. This will probably be accomplished through a dental press bureau.

ECCLIESIASTICAL LATIN.

It is reported by the London Globe that for some time the Pope and the Vatican authorities have been occupied with the consideration of the pronunciation of Latin in the churches. In the churches of France and in some of England "Deus qui fecit coelum et terram" is heard, while the Italians say, "Deous qui fecit coelum." While in Germany it is "Fetsit isouum." It follows that Roman Catholics when absent from home find these divergences in pronunciation hard to follow, and so it is said that the Vatican is of opinion that there should be uniform pronunciation. If there is any result from these deliberations, it is likely that the Italian form will be adopted, as it more nearly approaches the ancient Roman than any other.

GRAY'S ELEGY, R. V.

G. M. P. Fitzgibbon, poet, has offered the Boston Globe a revision of the first verse of Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard." This was inspired by the ruling of the United States Supreme Court as to reasonable restraints of trade and is entitled "Elegy Written in the Supreme Courtyard." It is:

"The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
 The lowly herds wind slowly o'er the lea;
 The plowman homeward plods his weary way,
 And leaves the world to Standard Oil and me."

—J. Pierpont Morgan.

To which the Globe adds:
 "The boast of privilege, the pomp of power,
 And all that fortune, all that wealth
 e'er gave,
 Alike await the inevitable hour,
 When Monopoly's note will get a shave."

—The Common People.

The first verse is more truth than poetry.

FLIES AND BALD HEADS.

At last a use has been found for bald-headed men other than their traditional service in reflecting the foot-lights from the front rows at ballet shows. In Pueblo, Colorado, the Bald-Headed Men's Protective Association decided to go after the fly, and started a fly-killing competition. As a result, 2,200,000 flies were slain. The game raising a total of thirteen pounds and twelve ounces. As the Denver News says:

"Lives of bald heads all remind us,
 Of our town canker, the helix;
 And, ceasing to beherd us
 Monuments of swatted flies."

A Bald-Headed Men's Protective Association should be formed in every town for the extermination of the fearful fly, which particularly delights in annoying the man with the billiard-ball top.

The authorities at Fort Sheridan are planning to construct a "bump-the-bumps" road within the grounds of the military post. This they have a perfect right to do. The road will be built to discourage fast driving of motor cars. The best machines and the more reckless drivers will have to "come to time" on this sort of road, which consists of a series of miniature hills and hollows, over which high speed is impossible. Fast travel over them is very dangerous. It is said that a number of cities and towns in which the speed mania is known will follow the Fort Sheridan plan.

Wonders will never cease. There is Charlotte complaining bitterly because of a lack of water.

"Padewski and Ysaye are coming," says a head line. For their fifteenth "farewell tour," we suppose.

The Rev. Percival H. Barker is out of a job. He preached until lately at the First Congregational Church in Chicago, but the trustees have fired him. Two years ago when he took charge of the church, the Rev. Mr. Barker tried some devices which would act as "barkers" to get people to come to his church. He used brass bands, he had parades, and occasionally a moving picture before the sermon. The old-fashioned members were shocked, and they withdrew from the church. However, the new

ideas wouldn't hold out, and the Rev. Barker will have to "bark" for some other church.

Voice of the People

The Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—A recent visit to the Virginia State Library has shown conditions entirely different from what and formerly existed that I cannot forbear commenting upon them. My visits have covered a number of years, and I can remember when the conditions were a by-word and a reproach, and study and research a matter of difficulty. That is changed. The cheerful, well-lighted, and airy atmosphere, the order and neatness prevail. Courtesy and intelligence direct. The change is wonderful.

What might be termed the commercial benefit of such a well-ordered institution to a city is not fully understood in my own case. I have seen a thousand miles to consult work which can only be consulted in the Virginia State Library, and have spent weeks in its study. It is only one of hundreds of other similar cases. At intervals our merchants and public-spirited citizens call together to provide some attraction to increase the draw of the city. Commerce thrives in this way. Yet this is the very thing that the State Library is doing for the business interests of the State. It is a valuable business asset, and not a liability. It pays, in this way, a valuable interest in the city's tax-giving capacity. It is a source of good business citizenship to see that this valuable asset is not hampered by lack of funds to increase its drawing power. The rural members of every Legislature are given to "paring" of every State Library, because it is a source of revenue to the State. This is a narrow-minded way of looking at what is designed to be a great public benefit for all the people.

In another way the city of Richmond has a direct interest in the State Library. The State Library is a public library, and the State Library has been performing the functions which usually devolve upon such institutions in other cities. It saves the city the large annual tax for library purposes which other cities are bearing. I am not saying that it should do this; but it has been, and is, doing it.

There is a growing danger to its integrity and growing danger to its main purpose as a great reference library. It is a source of revenue to the State. This is a narrow-minded way of looking at what is designed to be a great public benefit for all the people. In another way the city of Richmond has a direct interest in the State Library. The State Library is a public library, and the State Library has been performing the functions which usually devolve upon such institutions in other cities. It saves the city the large annual tax for library purposes which other cities are bearing. I am not saying that it should do this; but it has been, and is, doing it.

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Things as They Are.

The wanton countenance of Folly weak is painted by the winning arts of Woman:
 So the face of Nature, fresh and young,
 Is changed by true cunning arts of Mammon.
 Ever he boasteth, for his power is great,
 This Prince of Evil, rich and fair to see,
 The treasury of Nature's wealth is his,
 And strong men bow before his trivial throne.
 Glittering Gold his hated henchman is,
 And pride, who doth count vanity a virtue,
 And Prudence (arch hypocrite)
 Who trembleth at the sight of naked Truth.

And many follow where bright Gold doth lead:
 Ambition treadeth on the heads of better men,
 In terms of Hell is Manhood measured,
 And Lust if fat, the Love may lack bread:
 A man is judged by the clothes he wears,
 A woman by a foolish tad of fashion—
 So doth the mad World wag its weary way.
 Hag-ridden by his hollow false ideal,
 The crawling multitude of Little men—
 Ape each the weakness of his fellow,
 Conveying their souls and dig the pit wherein their foolish souls and bodies suffer,
 And cry aloud to Gods and scoffing men
 To be delivered from their pain and sorrow,
 For truth it is that man himself doth forge,
 The fetters which are binding him in bondage,
 Eyes have they which see not, ears which hear not,
 Trembling tongues, which fear to speak,
 And faces tured with the selfsame stick
 Of base Commercialism.

And what remaineth after Life is tried?
 In the slow-heating crucible of Time—
 When Love is lost, and Faith hath hid his face,
 And Memory shall bring us only tears!
 Yet Hope remaineth—young, sweet, heavenly Hope,
 For Nature hath her balm for every ill,
 And she who ever beauteous and wise,
 'Til gentle Death shall take us,
 EDMOND FONTAINE,
 Charlottesville, September, 1910.

See that your ROOFING IS PERMANENT

And then your roof will take care of itself.

Gordon Metal Co.
 Richmond, Va.

Daily Queries and Answers

Betsy Ross, tell me something about her? Can you tell me the first United States flag?

Betsy Ross was the sixth daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Ross, born in Philadelphia January 1, 1752. Her parents were members of the Society of Friends, and her father was a builder of considerable importance. She assisted in the erection of Independence Hall, Elizabeth, or "Betsy," as she was known, is remembered for her beauty, amiability, and lady-like manner. John Ross, a young upstart, and nephew of Colonel George Ross, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Betsy were married in December, 1773, and embarked in the upholstery business at 239 Arch Street.

Colonel George Ross was a member of the committee appointed by Congress to prepare a design for the flag of the thirteen united colonies, and this it happened that the service of Betsy Ross was celebrated as she suggested the use of thirteen stars for the flag. Previously the six-pointed star, like those on British coats, had been the emblem of the British flag. General Washington, in his promptness, it is said, and Betsy in a certain way, by folding the cloth in a single clip of the scissors. John Ross, her first husband, died in 1776, and she was left a widow. She was a member of the Society of Friends, and her husband was a member of the Society of Friends. She was a member of the Society of Friends, and her husband was a member of the Society of Friends. She was a member of the Society of Friends, and her husband was a member of the Society of Friends.

Dr. Tanner's Fast.

Please tell me about Dr. Tanner's fast, and whether he drank anything except water during the period.

Dr. Henry S. Tanner fasted forty days and nights in New York City in 1887. He completed his task at noon on August 7 in the presence of 1,000 persons. His weight when he began the fast was 175 pounds, and when it ended was 125 pounds. He abstained from food, but he abstained from even water, but after that he walked every day to Central Park, and he walked every day toward the end he was weaker and weaker, and he became very weak, and he persisted, and he said afterward that he felt that he was dying. He did not find it necessary to seek his bed through weakness, and he said that he felt that he was dying. He did not find it necessary to seek his bed through weakness, and he said that he felt that he was dying.

SILVER GREYHOUNDS NOT DISPENSED WITH

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.

VERY long and again an announcement appears in the English and American press that it has been decided to dispense with the services of the "Silver Greyhounds," or King's messengers, and the report to that effect printed in the London papers just to hand, is on a par with others of the same kind that have appeared on several occasions, during the reign of Queen Victoria, and on the occasion of King Edward to the throne. The place is a wedding out of the corps, and the dispatches of those who have become superfluous since George became King. Edward, the late King, was a foreign traveler, his stays at Biarritz or at St. Jean de Luz, in the spring, and at Marlenbad in the summer, and his frequent visits to foreign courts, rendered a very large increase of the number of silver hounds necessary, since the monarch had to be accompanied by a daily touch with his ministers at home, and communications were constantly being sent to him by the foreign travel, his stays at Biarritz or at St. Jean de Luz, in the spring, and at Marlenbad in the summer, and his frequent visits to foreign courts, rendered a very large increase of the number of silver hounds necessary, since the monarch had to be accompanied by a daily touch with his ministers at home, and communications were constantly being sent to him by the foreign travel, his stays at Biarritz or at St. Jean de Luz, in the spring, and at Marlenbad in the summer, and his frequent visits to foreign courts, rendered a very large increase of the number of silver hounds necessary, since 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